



## **EMERGENCY NEWS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**

State Emergency Operations Center, Camp Murray, Washington  
Emergency Management Division, Washington Military Department

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### **For immediate release**

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## **Before, during and after a flood**

CAMP MURRAY, WA – The following tips are provided to help people before, during and after current flooding conditions. Just six inches of swiftly moving water can knock people off their feet. Cars are easily swept away in only two feet of water.

### **Before a flood**

- Find out if you live in a flood-prone area and identify where dams are in your area.
- Ask your local emergency manager about official flood warning signals.
- Know the terms Flood Watch, Flash Flood Watch, Flood Warning, Flash Flood Warning, and Urban and Small Stream Warning.
- Plan for evacuation.
- Consider purchasing flood insurance.
- Take steps to flood proof your home. Call your local building department or emergency management office for information.
- Keep all insurance policies and your household inventory in a safe place.

### **During**

- Listen to radio or television stations for local information.
- Be aware of streams, drainage channels and areas known to flood suddenly.
- If local authorities issue a flood watch, prepare to evacuate.
- Secure your home. If time permits, also secure items located outside the house.
- If instructed, turn off utilities at the main switches or valves.
- Fill your car with fuel.
- Fill the bathtub with water in case the water supply becomes contaminated or services are cut off. Sterilize the bathtub first.
- When deep flooding is likely, permit the flood waters to flow freely into your basement to avoid structural damage to the foundation and the house.

### **After**

- Stay away from flood waters.
- Stay away from moving water--six inches can easily sweep you off your feet.
- Be aware of where waters have receded and may have weakened road surfaces.

--- more on next page ---

- Stay away from and report downed power lines.
- Stay away from disaster areas unless authorities ask for volunteers.
- Continue listening to the radio for information about where to get assistance.
- Consider health and safety needs. Wash your hands frequently with soap and clean water if you come in contact with flood waters.
- Throw away food that has come in contact with flood waters.
- Call your insurance agent.
- Keep records of all clean-up and repair costs.
- Take photos of or videotape your belongings and your home.
- Don't throw away damaged goods until an official inventory has been taken.

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